

[English]

Opening of RRBs Branches

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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of regional

rural banks opened in each state during 1991-92, district-wise, and

(b) the number of branches of these banks proposed to be opened in each state during 1992-93, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) During 1991-92, 7 branches of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were opened. The State-wise and District-wise details are given below:-

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No. of branches opened during 1991-92</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	West Siang	1
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	1
-do-	Kathua	3
-do-	Rajouri	1
Karnataka	Uttar Kannada	1

(b) Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) applications from Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for new branches in their areas of operations will be considered by RBI on merits of each case, specially looking into the viability of such branches, the Service Area Approach to rural lending and the existing number of branches of the RRBs.

For opening of branches in rural areas, the list of identified centres with necessary

particulars, in each District has to be given to the lead bank of that District. The lead bank after consolidating the lists received from all banks submits it to the District Collector for recommendation and onward transmission to RBI through the State Government concerned. Therefore, under the Branch Licensing Policy (1990-95) opening of branches of public sector banks including RRBs is a continuous process and it is not possible to project the number of branches of RRBs that are proposed to be opened in each state during 1992-93.